

Faults are things which describe our friends and disqualify our adversaries. My mother's favorite quotation is, "There is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us that it hardly becomes any of us to say very much about the rest of us."

P.S. Just in case the mud slingers run short of wild charges against the President, they should try this one: A few days ago one of our little boys came home and said a chum of his solemnly insisted that there are Nazis in the White House.

[From the Indianapolis Star, June 29, 1996]

THE RIGHT STUFF

(By Ron Byers)

In The Star's June 25 search for an explanation of President Clinton's commanding lead in the polls, you may have overlooked a minor detail: four years of steady economic growth, reduced inflation and declining deficits.

It's not the stuff the Republican right claims he has done wrong. It's the stuff the public knows he has done right.

[From the Indianapolis News, July 1, 1996]

CRITICS ATTACK AGENT'S BOOK ABOUT INSIDE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON.—The former FBI agent who wrote an insider's book on White House security is being attacked from all sides for what critics say is a pack of unbelievable tales and "wild speculation."

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton today blasted the book during a visit to Bucharest, Romania.

"I see it as a politically inspired fabrication and I don't think anybody should take it seriously," she said.

She also denied suggestions that she played a role in the hiring of the White House security chief who collected private FBI files on more than 400 people. "There is no connection," she said.

A top White House aide denounced author Gary Aldrich as a person of no credibility whose book is part of conservative Republicans' efforts to "destroy the president."

And White House spokesman Mike McCurry today called on Republican candidate Bob Dole to separate himself from a one-time volunteer adviser to Dole's campaign who is promoting Aldrich's book.

"It would be a surprise to us if Senator Dole didn't indicate that the activity of one of his paid advisers with respect to this book is unacceptable," McCurry said. "I assume he'll do that and do it promptly."

Even leading conservative journalists are denouncing Aldrich, including the apparent source of his book's wildest allegation—that President Clinton sneaks out of the White House without his guards for romantic hotel trysts.

"I never knew I would be used as a source," David Brock, a writer for the American Spectator, told *Newsweek* magazine. He said he never thought Aldrich would use the "wild speculation" he traded about the alleged presidential outings to a Washington hotel, which the Secret Service says would be impossible.

Conservative columnist George Will, who quizzed Aldrich Sunday on ABC, said Brock told him he was appalled to see the unverified story published.

"Can't someone say that, in fact, your book is a raw file and that you have gone into print with the kind of evidence that no prosecutor would ever go into court with?" Will asked Aldrich.

"This is not a case presented to a grand jury," Aldrich replied, saying he had relied on his observations and untaped interviews for his book.

"I conducted investigations and talked to many sources, trying to knock this particular issue down as to whether the president could in fact travel without a Secret Service complement. I was unable to knock down that possibility," Aldrich said.

He acknowledged that much of the material came from second and third-hand source, some of whom have publicly disputed his account.

Still, Aldrich, who retired from the FBI in 1994 after 30 years as an agent, said he would be willing to go before Congress to reveal his sources and back up his insider tales of sloppy White House security and alleged former drug use by some officials, including a senior staffer.

"I'm willing to swear under oath to anything that I have in this book," Aldrich said on ABC's *This Week* With David Brinkley.

Senior Clinton adviser George Stephanopoulos, who had urged ABC to cancel Aldrich's appearance, said, "His story couldn't get past the fact checker at the National Enquirer."

Stephanopoulos said Aldrich's book was being promoted by people with Republican connections. He said several "GOP operatives" were present for the ABC show's taping, including those with ties to Republican president candidates Bob Dole and Pat Buchanan.

He named Craig Shirley, a paid adviser to Dole in his 1988 presidential campaign. His company, Craig Shirley & Associates Inc., is promoting the book, published by the conservative Regnery Publishing Inc.

"If you look at the people behind him, they're right-wing Republican political operatives who are determined to destroy the president," Stephanopoulos said. "They're trying to tear him down."

EVALUATING THE EVEN START PROGRAM

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, as the Member of Congress who developed the Even Start Program, I was understandably disappointed by the language discussing Even Start in the committee report accompanying the Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill for fiscal year 1997.

The Even Start Program was first funded in 1989 and, therefore, the program has only been in existence for a short period of time compared to other major elementary and secondary education programs. Thus, I believe it is unfair to say there is little in the way of evaluations to support the request for funding for this program.

I must admit that I, too, was disappointed with the last program evaluation. However, I never expected that the program would not have to undergo change in order to effectively carry out its goals. There is not a program in the Federal Government which cannot be improved. However, Even Start is new and we are just now learning what does and doesn't produce the positive results we are seeking.

For example, the interim evaluation reports called attention to the fact that adults participants were not benefiting as much as their children. As a result, the Department of Education started to stress with States and program providers the need for a stronger parent component. Additionally, early evaluations in-

dicted that not all Even Start projects were operating all three program components. Again, this was corrected.

One of the findings of the most recent and final report was that the intensity of services was not strong in many programs and parents were receiving a minimal number of hours of adult education. The fiscal year 1996 appropriations bill for the District of Columbia contained language modifying the existing Even Start law to require intensive services be provided to program participants.

It is also easy to misinterpret data contained in evaluation studies. For example, the results on preschool experiences were misinterpreted. Children in Even Start did significantly better than the control group on school readiness tasks during the preschool year. Most children in the control group did not attend a preschool program and they did not learn skills needed for kindergarten by staying home. It was only at the end of the kindergarten year that the control group children learned the skills that the Even Start children had learned a year earlier.

Mr. Speaker, the committee did not cut funding for this program, for which I am grateful. However, I would hope that any future discussion of the effectiveness of Even Start would take into consideration the information I have discussed today and not jump to the conclusion that this program has not proven its worth.

LUCY BOWEN MCCAULEY'S CHOREOGRAPHIC MAGIC

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to advise my colleagues of a magical event which took place recently. Virginia's own Lucy Bowen McCauley, a renowned dancer and teacher, who has expanded her art into choreography, staged her first dance concert consisting solely of her own choreography.

The concert was a wonderful potpourri of passion and humor, style and grace. Ms. Bowen McCauley demonstrated her choreographic range in splendid fashion. From the classical "Brahms Trio" with its depth of lyrical movements, to the marvelously humorous "What'll Ya'ave, Luv," to the deeply moving "At Last," the evening was filled with excitement, emotion, and fun. One critic was especially moved when she noticed that the couple dancing the romantic "At Last" are married to each other and truly exuded the love which Ms. Bowen McCauley had choreographed into the piece. Ms. Bowen McCauley gave the audience a special treat by dancing in "Fracture Zone," a wonderfully imaginative and dynamic work.

In her inaugural choreographic triumph, Ms. Bowen McCauley has managed not only to demonstrate her command of the complexities of choreography, but she has been able to imbue her dancers with her own drive and love of dance which clearly comes out in each piece. The combination made for a truly magical evening—one which culminated in a well-deserved standing ovation.

The dance world looks forward to future work from this truly talented choreographer.